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'Realities'— Donovan on Integration

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Of The Herald Tribune Staff

Denying reports that board members had asked him to clear his statements with them, Board of Education President James B. Donovan said yesterday "that some people have become so accustomed to talking" about integration problems in such general terms that "they have grown unaccustomed to plain, direct statements."

Statements," he added, that are "based on the realities which confront the city of New York."

He also said he would not "retract or amend" any statement he had made on the question of school integration.

Mr. Donovan reacted to a report that board members were disturbed most specifically by a remark that "this is a board of education, not a board of transportation or a board of integration," and his statement that civil-rights leaders were indulging in "linguistic slogans." Both of these comments were made in newspaper interviews and not in a formal statement, he said.

Mr. Donovan said his only prepared statement on integration was issued Saturday after he was asked for comment following a critical statement by the Commission on Human Rights. On the board's integration plans.

He said that the statement was cleared with the "two available members of the board's Committee on Integration—Mrs. Rose Shapiro, chairman, and Dr. Aaron Brown." Mr. Donovan's denial was to a story in yesterday's New York Post.

All board members reached denied any knowledge of a request being made to Mr. Donovan that he clear future statements.

Mr. Donovan named president of the board two weeks ago, has since been involved in some strong charges and countercharges with civil rights leaders. Their organizations have threatened a citywide school boycott by Negroes on Feb. 3.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Citywide Committee for Integrated Schools, which has threatened the boycott, indicated that civil rights leaders would boycott two meetings planned by the board next month to help prepare its integration proposals. The report on the proposals is due Feb. 1.

The Rev. Milton A. Galamison, chairman of the committee, said he would recommend staying away from the meetings "until I get some assurance that the board is willing to develop a citywide plan and timetable."

He had previously charged that the interim integration report, revealed earlier this month by Superintendent of Schools Calvin E. Gross, was

a "piecemeal" approach and that Dr. Gross had reneged on a September agreement to have an integration timetable ready by December.

The City Commission on Human Rights, the United Federation of Teachers and the Metropolitan Council of the American Jewish Congress have backed the Citywide Committee's call for a timetable.

Mr. Galamison said that attendance by the five organizations in the Citywide Committee would require unanimous approval by the members. He said that "at this juncture" he was against the idea and would so advise the committee.

"I don't see any value in going to a meeting," he said. "Attendance would be a waste of time."

Mr. Galamison was among 25 persons arrested after an attempted sit-in at Board of Education headquarters in Brooklyn during day-long protests. A second demonstration is planned Monday.

A Board of Education announcement said the January meetings would be attended by its newly hired consultants on integration, Dr. Edward S. Lewis, Dr. Dan W. Dodson and Miss Antonia Pantoja.

Two of the consultants, Dr. Dodson and Dr. Lewis, met yesterday with Dr. Gross and Jacob Landers. Mr. Landers has been nominated as coordinator of its integration activities.

The consultants agreed to accept a "limited number" of invitations to visit with community groups and local school boards, "in order that they may obtain further insight into the thinking of those who make recommendations."

James B. Donovan, board president, said that since his recent appeal for "constructive" criticism of the board's program, it had received many proposals that are being referred to the Committee on Integration, headed by Mrs. Rose Shapiro. She is a board member.

Mr. Donovan also said that local school boards were being asked to submit reports on integration after "such public discussion as each local board may determine to be desirable."

Mr. Donovan said that all recommendations and proposals would be reviewed by the Integration Committee before the board adopts its final report.